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APR 10 2007

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 18, 2007. Claims 4 to 15, 23 and 24 are in the application, of which Claims 4 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 4 to 15, 23 and 24 are allowed. Based on this indication, the remaining claims have been cancelled, wherefore an indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness; Claims 17 to 22 were objected to for failure to differentiate between preamble and body; Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 6,234,615 (Tsukuda); and Claim 16 was rejected under § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,905,518 (DeFilippis). The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of these rejections, in an effort to advance this case toward issuance more quickly. Applicants might file a divisional application to pursue the cancelled claims. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections.

Regarding a formal matter, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate her consideration of the art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated January 25, 2007 by returning an initialled form PTO-1449 with her next communication.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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